

Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #25

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Australasian Engineering Heritage Conference (AEHC) 2022 – Registration is open

The Engineering Heritage Conference 2022 will bring together like-minded people with an interest in heritage, focusing on engineering heritage, and aims to bring these two aspects together in relationship, emphasising how the past determines the future.

The conference will run from 12 October - 13 October 2022 under the theme, 'Transport and Communications: Looking Forward - Looking Back'.

Our conference will be held at Engineers Australia Sydney Offices, 44 Market Street, and (hopefully) online as well. On the afternoon of the second day, tours have been arranged to the Central Station Clocktower and the Metro construction works at Central, quite in keeping with themes of looking back and looking forward. An informal conference dinner will be held at the EA offices on the first evening. The dinner will also allow the presentation of the 2019 Colin Crisp Awards.

There will be a varied range of talks, with keynote speakers including:

- Howard Collins, Chief Operating Officer, Transport for New South Wales, who has a long term interest in heritage; and
- Pamela Henderson, Executive Director, Technical Services, Transport for New South Wales, speaking on 'Sustainable Infrastructure: On the reuse of existing assets and heritage buildings to enable decarbonisation and transition to a circular economy'.

For registration and more information please refer to the link below. The opportunity to register for this conference will close at 5.00 pm next Monday 10th October.

<https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/event/2022/03/australasian-engineering-heritage-conference-2022-41536>

(From Frank Johnson and Mike Taylor)

Have your say - Assessing Heritage Significance guidelines

Heritage NSW is currently reviewing the 'Assessing Heritage Significance' guidelines to ensure they are up to date, easy to understand, and reflect best practice approaches to assessing heritage significance.

Heritage NSW wants your input on the guidelines., to know what should be improved or changed.

To have your say, visit https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/assessing-heritage-significance?tool=survey_tool&tool_id=survey1#tool_tab

(From Frank Johnson)

Duck Reach Power Station, Launceston

For some time, lobby groups in Launceston have been keen to improve the visitor experience at the 1895 Duck Reach Power Station which was decommissioned in 1955 and the generating equipment removed.

A grant of funds in 2016 enabled a 10-minute video to be prepared and displayed on an inside wall to tell the Duck Reach story when visitors enter, and the interpretation panels were upgraded.

Currently, a group led by Gus Green persuaded the Hydro to release one small 12kW Duck Reach machine from the Waddamana Museum and that turbo-generator has been lifted into Duck Reach station by helicopter. This machine is brightly painted and has some of its casings cut away so that the inside workings can be seen.

The lobby group has long held the aim to get an original 445 hp turbine and 300 kW alternator out of the Queen Victoria Museum's bulk storage shed and reinstall it in the station. This work is now in progress.

These machines have been transported to a workshop in Launceston complete with the large concrete blocks on which they were founded when on display near Trevallyn Dam. The blocks have been removed, the machines have been carefully dismantled into lighter components, cleaned up and painted.

A significant problem for the re-installation is the lack of road access to the site. To convey the parts across the river to the station, the plan is to build a 5-tonne cableway and work on this has begun. In the station there is an existing walkway through the length of the building which will have to be modified to make room for the machine. The intention is to place the machine on its original holding down bolts which already exist in the station. The inlet pipe between the station wall to the gate valve on top of the turbine is missing and will have to be measured up and fabricated.

Julian Burgess wrote a book called *Duck Reach and Launceston's Electric Light* which was launched in 2016. He has now produced a second and upgraded edition to be launched in November 2022. It contains the full story and a myriad of historical photographs.

The scheme was awarded a Historic Engineering Marker in 2016.

(From Bruce Cole, Engineering Heritage Tasmania)

Interview with Bill Phippen about Kathleen Butler, Bradfield's confidential secretary in the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Following are links to interesting radio interviews with Bill Phippen about Kathleen Butler and other heritage topics

<https://www.mixcloud.com/Johnorg/roving-spotlight-9-aug-22-economy-bushfires-water-sydney-harbour-bridges-godmother-evolution/>

<https://www.mixcloud.com/Johnorg/roving-spotlight-2nd-aug-22-bookchin-rojava-earthpower-parramatta-victoria-bridge-others/>

(From John August)

Physics in the Pub by John August

Following is a link to a talk by John August at Physics in the Pub. He included some references to heritage topics. John's talk starts in about minute 43:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sa8zWwDhbbI>

(From John August)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

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